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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,964	09/23/2003	Yoshiaki Sakagami	59406.00012	7894
32294 7590 02/06/2007 SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P. 14TH FLOOR 8000 TOWERS CRESCENT TYSONS CORNER, VA 22182			EXAMINER AZAD, ABUL K	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/667,964	SAKAGAMI ET AL.	
	Examiner ABUL K. AZAD	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimomura et al. (US 2001/0021909).

As per claim 1, Shimomura teaches, “a receptionist robot system”, comprising:

“a traveling robot including autonomous traveling means for traveling autonomously and external recognition means for recognizing a guest at least according to image information” (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3, element 31); and

“management database means adapted to communicate with the robot and provided with a database containing identification information to identify the guest recognized by the external recognition means” (Paragraphs 0076-0078);

“wherein the guest is identified at least according to information obtained by the external recognition means and management database” (Paragraph 0068).

As per claim 2, Shimomura teaches, “wherein the traveling robot is provided with dialog means for communicating with the guest recognized by the external recognition means” (Paragraphs 0076-0078).

As per claim 3, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the traveling robot is provided with response means for determining the contents of communication with the guest according to the information from the management database means" (Paragraph 0084).

As per claim 4, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the management database means is adapted to retain and update individual personal information and schedule information" (Paragraph 0083).

As per claim 5, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the management database means is adapted to update the individual personal information according to a result of communication with the guest conducted by the response means" (Paragraphs 0085-0089).

As per claim 6, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the external recognition means is adapted to select a candidate or determine a priority order of a plurality of candidates according to the schedule information of the management database means" (Paragraphs 0102-0104).

As per claim 7, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the external recognition means comprises a camera" (Fig. 3, element 16).

As per claim 8, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the external recognition means comprises stereoscopic cameras" (Fig. 3, element 16).

As per claim 9, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the external recognition means comprises a microphone" (Fig. 3, element 15).

As per claim 10, Shimomura teaches, "wherein the external recognition means comprises stereophonic microphones" (Fig. 3, element 15).

As per claims 11, 12, 14-21, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-10, because claims 11, 12, and 14-21 have similar scope.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimomura et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Bancroft et al. (US 6,584,375).

As per claim 13, Shimomura does not explicitly teach, "wherein the management database comprises map information including at least a position of a stairway, and the traveling robot is capable of traveling inside a building including a stairway according to the map information". However, Bancroft teaches, "wherein the management database comprises map information including at least a position of a stairway, and the traveling robot is capable of traveling inside a building including a stairway according to the map information" (col. 6, lines 45-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Bancroft's teaching in the Shimomura's invention because Bancroft teaches his invention might better to fulfill the customers needs (col. 1, lines 36-40).

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 30, 2007



Abul K. Azad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626